

CASE REPORT : TREATMENT OF AN ACUTE CASE OF *Plasmodium*  
*malariae* MALARIA WITH MEFLOQUINE

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OBJECTIVE : To record the results of a case of *P. malariae* malaria treated with mefloquine.

BACKGROUND : *P. malariae* occurs in Thailand, but is much less common than *P. vivax*. There are no recorded cases of *P. malariae* malaria treated with mefloquine.

CASE REPORT : A 30 year old Thai male with a history of fever, chills, headache, backache and dizziness for 12 days had an initial parasite count of 5220/cu.mm. A diagnosis of vivax malaria was made and the patient was entered into the vivax study and treated with mefloquine 1500 mg. p.o. He was free of symptoms, except for slight dizziness, at the time of admission and his temperature at that time was 36.7°C. Examination of additional slides established the correct diagnosis of *P. malariae*. This was confirmed in all slides, including those obtained on admission, by the presence of numerous band forms of trophozoites, lack of enlargement of parasitized red cells, absence of Schuffner's stippling, the presence of coarse pigment typical of *P. malariae* and the low numbers of merozoites (6-12) per mature schizont. Although the patient remained relatively free of symptoms, his parasite clearance time was 166 hours and his fever clearance time was 93 hours. This is much higher than comparable figures for vivax malaria treated with mefloquine in the same study (mean PCT = 59 hours and mean FCT = 28 hours).